

EMERGE CT, Inc.

Working to make it right since 2011



Building a strong foundation

A job alone is not enough to keep returning offenders from being reincarcerated. With high recidivism rates nationwide, EMERGE Connecticut, Inc. uses employment as a way to get New Haven's returning offenders to do the real work: changing the way they think about their lives. At EMERGE, we provide transitional employment and a safe place for our crew members to learn from their mistakes and end the pattern of recidivism.

1

SUPPORT & FEEDBACK

High structure, intense supervision, life coaching, and supportive services

2

EDUCATION

Highly individualized, self-paced math, reading, and skill set training

3

EMPLOYMENT

High workplace standards that create prepared members of CT's workforce



Real Experience

Up to 24 hours of weekly paid training in construction



"Real Talk"

Hats-off, peer led discussions that explore the biggest barriers of reentry



Real Bonds

Building a network of support to fall back on during and after EMERGE

Family Man

Meet Johnnie, EMERGE Alumni

Johnnie started “running the streets” at the age of 12. At 14, he had developed a heroin addiction, and by 16 he was sentenced to a 3 year bid of incarceration. Today he is 56 years old, and has given more than half of his life to the criminal justice system. When Johnnie came to EMERGE, he had just completed a 5 year Federal bid immediately after serving 15 years with the State of Connecticut.

Even after all that time, Johnnie remembers coming in for his initial orientation at EMERGE and thinking “This ain’t for me.” Like many other offenders, Johnnie wanted to go straight to work. He didn’t see any need to engage in EMERGE’s mandatory program components. He was living at a work release program at the time, and was looking to bide his time until he could get released and go back to his old lifestyle. It was Johnnie’s wife who pressured him into giving it an honest effort, and he soon started to see a benefit to being a part of something positive that could prepare him for a different kind of life.

One of the initial challenges for Johnnie was engaging in EMERGE’s classroom training to improve his math and reading scores. He was doing well working on EMERGE job sites, but in order to work more hours he needed to improve his test scores, so he eventually decided to buckle down and take his studies more seriously. Working with a tutor, he improved his math and reading scores by 6 grade levels, and started getting more opportunities to prove himself on the EMERGE work crews. As he became more comfortable with his fellow crew members, he started opening up in *Real Talk* and in his parenting classes, as he reconnected with his



family and earned back their trust little by little. “I’m there for my grandchildren now, the way I should’ve been there for my kids.” he says. Johnnie has made new relationships with his family members, who now look at him in a different light.

In December of 2015, EMERGE hired Johnnie as our Site Foreman, a title no former crew member has ever held. Johnnie has his own vehicle, has opened up a bank account and a credit card as he works to build up his credit, is compliant with child support payments, and has been able to secure affordable housing for him and his family.

“I gave EMERGE a shot, and staying here changed my way of thinking. I have accomplished so much in the little bit of time I’ve been here.”

In November of 2016, Johnnie accepted a job offer as a Foreman for a local construction company, doubling his salary. Since he left he has called and stopped by as much as possible. The self-proclaimed “Family Man” is not only making his grandchildren proud, but his EMERGE family as well.

